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For Immediate Release
November 20, 2003

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192 and counting – Garcia phone drive on pace for record year

Lansing – With just over a month remaining in their annual cellular phone drive, Sen. Valde Garcia (R-Howell) and area businesses have already collected 192 phones for domestic violence victims. Last year's drive collected 198 phones.

"This is our third drive and it gets bigger every year," Garcia said. "This year, we have a new collection site at the Ace Hardware in Mason, and we're already close to surpassing last year's total. I'm thrilled to see how successful this program has become."

Collected phones will be sent to Donate A Phone, a division of the Wireless Foundation, where they will be re-programmed so that they can only be used to contact emergency officials when in trouble.

Garcia explained that the phones offer immediate assistance. Victims do not have run from their attacker and then find a phone to call the authorities.

All cellular phones will be accepted. They can be dropped-off at the following locations:

- Big K Mart, 2500 E. M-21, Corunna
- Big K Mart, 8375 E. Grand River Ave., Brighton
- Auto One/Hometown Wireless, 9981 E. Grand River Ave., Brighton
- Duke's Communications, 110 W. Grand River Ave., Howell
- Ace Hardware, 340 S. Cedar St., Mason

Phones also can be brought to Sen. Garcia's office in Lansing. This year's collection goal is 300 phones. The campaign lasts through the holiday season. For more information, or if there is not a drop-off center near your home, please contact the senator's office at (517) 516-0026.

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